

318 CAPTAIN BLAND FIRES THE *GRACE OF GOD*.
[{-e?^?]

to have burnt the *Jesus* of Lubeck; which we prevented by cutting our cables in the hawse, and winding off by our stern-fast. The *Mimon* was foiced to set sail and stand off from us, and come to an anchor without shot of the island.

Our General courageously cheered up his soldiers and gunners, and called to SAMUEL his page, for a cup of beer ; who brought it to him in a silver cup : and he drinking to all the men, willed "the gunners to stand by their ordnance lustily like men ! " He had no sooner set the cup out of his hand, but a demi-culverin shot struck away the cup and a cooper's plane that stood by the mainmast, and ran out on the other side of the ship; which nothing dismayed our General, for he ceased not to encourage us, saying, " Fear nothing! For GOD, who hath preserved me from this shot, will also deliver us from these traitors and villains ! "

Then Captain BLAND [*apparently in command of the Grace of God*] meaning to have turned out of port, had his mainmast struck overboard with a chain-shot, that came from the shore : wherefore he anchored, fired his ship, took his pinnace with all his men, and came aboard the *Jesus* of Lubeck to our General; who said to him, " He thought he would not have run away from him ! "

He answered, " He was not minded to have run away from him; but his intent [*i.e., previous to the loss of his mainmast*] was to have turned up, and to have laid the weather-most ship of the Spanish fleet aboard, and fired his ship in hope therewith to have set on fire the Spanish fleet."

He said, " If he had done so, he had done well!" With this night came on.

Our General [had] commanded the *Minion* ^ for safeguard of her masts, to be brought under the *Jesus* of Lubeck's lee.

He willed Master FRANCIS DRAKE to come in with the *Judith*, and to lay the *Minion* aboard, to take in men and other things needful ; and to go out. And so he did. [*I See p» 223, on DRAKE'S alleged desertion of the Minion. His trying to get home by himself, crowded as the little Judith must have been, seems to have been the wisest thing he could do; though HAWKINS) no doubt, thought it very hard.*]

At night, when the wind came off the shore,
we [*i.e., the*
in boats. His narrative is very important here as he
was taken on board the *Jesus* and therefore an eye
witness, p. 330